

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OECD, EAGR
SUBJECT: SCANDINAVIAN VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN REQUEST TO
JOIN OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCHEME RAISES POLICY ISSUE.

REF: PARIS 16104

1. SUMMARY: SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES OPPOSITION TO SOUTH
AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
SCHEME ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AFTER ALL OECD MEMBER COUN-
TRIES FOUND SOUTH AFRICA QUALIFIED ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS
RAISES POLICY ISSUE. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPLICATION TO JOIN THE SCHEME
WAS EXAMINED BY THE 17TH SESSION OF THE PLENARY MEETING
ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WHERE SOUTH AFRICA WAS FOUND TO
MEET THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP. WHEN
ISSUE WAS RAISED AT THE MAY COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
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MEETING, ALL COUNTRY DELEGATES AGREED THAT SOUTH AFRICA
MEETS THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE SCHEME,
BUT FOUR COUNTRIES - NORWAY, DENMARK, SWEDEN, YUGOSLA-
VIA - OPPOSED SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION ON POLITICAL
GROUNDS (SEE REFTEL).

3. DURING A RECENT INFORMAL LUNCHEON OF G-7 PERMREPS,

OECD SECGEN VAN LENNEP RAISED THE ISSUE OF REQUEST BY SOUTH AFRICATO JOIN THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCHEME. AS BACKGROUND THE SECGEN POINTED OUT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE SEED SCHEME. IN THE ENSUING CONVERSATION THE U.K. MILDLY FAVORED SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION, PROVIDED THEY KEEP A LOW PROFILE. SINCE NONE OF THE OTHERS WAS READY TO CONTEST SCANDINAVIAN POSITION CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS THAT THE SECGEN DEFER ACTION ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPLICATION, WHICH THE SECRETARIAT NOW HAS IN HAND.

4. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION OF THIS ISSUE REVEALS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- A) IN ADDITION TO SOUTH AFRICA OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF OECD BUT THAT ARE MEMBERS OF EITHER THE OECD SEED OR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCHEMES INCLUDE CHILE, CYPRUS, HUNGARY, ISRAEL, KENYA, POLAND, RUMANIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND TUNISIA. APPLICATIONS ARE PENDING FROM IRAN AND BULGARIA.
- B) NORWAY, DENMARK, AND SWEDEN ARE APPARENTLY ADAMANT ON THEIR REFUSAL TO ALLOW SOUTH AFRICA INTO SCHEME AT THIS TIME. THEY HAVE HOWEVER INDICATED TO SECGEN OFFICE THAT THEY MAY REPEAT MAY BE ABLE TO REEVALUATE THEIR POSITION AFTER THE UPCOMING DEBATE IN THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SOUTH AFRICA, BUT FOR NOW, THEY WILL HOLD THEIR POSITION. YUGOSLAVIA EVEN THOUGH OPPOSED, OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COURSE, COULD NOT BLOCK ACTION AT THE OECD COUNCIL LEVEL SINCE THEY ARE ONLY OBSERVERS.

5. COMMENT. THIS ISSUE WILL LIKELY RESURFACE AT A G-7 MEETING THIS FALL AFTER THE U.N. DEBATE. MISSION IS CONCERNED THAT MAINTENANCE OF THIS VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS MAY SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT AT OECD, AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY US WHEN ISSUE COMES UP AGAIN. SALZMAN.

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